Message Text

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN CORK EXAMINER APRIL 19, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN CORK EXAMINER APRIL 19, 1978 UNDERHEADING HISTORIC RHODESIA MISSION:

THE VISIT TO RHODESIA YESTERDAY OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN MISSION WAS A HISTORICONE. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A U.S. GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ENTERED THAT COUNTRY AND THE FIRST TIME THAT THE RHODESIA GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY BLACK AFRICANS.

DR. DAVID OWEN, MR. CYRUS VANCE AND MR. ANDREW YOUNG HAVE ADELICATE MISSION. THEY HAD DRAWN UP THEIR OWN PLANS FOR RHODESIA, IN CONSULTATION WITH LEADERS OF NEIGHBOURING STATES AND OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLA MOVEMENT. MR. IAN SMITH OUTMANOEUVRED THEM WITH REMARKABLE SPEED, REACHING AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WITH THE THREE BLACK LEADERS WITHWHOM HE NOW SHARES THE OFFICE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF PRIME MINISTER. THAT SETTLEMENT IS SUPPOSED TO LEAD TO EVENTUAL RULE BY RHODESIA'S BLACK MAJORITY. THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TEAM WANT IT AMENDED.

IT WOULD BE A LOSS OF FACE FOR THEM IF, AFTER ALL THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, MR. SMITH COULD FIND A

FAIR AND WORKABLE SOLUTION WITHOUT THEM. BUT THERE IS MORE THAN THAT TO THEIR RESERVATIONS.

THEY DO NOT TRUST MR. SMITH'S INTENTIONS. THEY FEAR THAT ONE WHITE POLITICIAN WILL BE ABLE TO TRICK THE THREE BLACKS AND HANG ONTO THE REAL POWER: A RACIST ASSUMPTION.

MORE REALISTIC IS THEIR FEAR THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL LEAD TO CIVIL WAR, IRISH STYLE, BETWEEN THOSE WHO COMPROMISED AND THOSE WHO HOLD OUT FOR TOTAL CAPITULATION BY THE WHITE MINORITY.

THE UNITED STATES FEARS THAT WOULD LEAD TO A COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER BUT IT IS NOT READY FOR ANOTHER VIETNAM TO PREVENT IT. AND SO THE PRESSURE IS ON TO INVOLVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS A PARTY TO THE SETTLEMENT. ANY OTHER OUTCOME WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY MEAN FRIGHTFUL BLOODSHED. KRENE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SOPN, PDEV, PINT, EI, UK, US, RH, (VANCE, CYRUS), (YOUNG, ANDREW J), (OWEN, DAVID)

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